

Definition of Basic Skills Deficient

WIOA § 3(5):

(5) BASIC SKILLS DEFICIENT. —The term “basic skills deficient” means, with respect to an individual—

(A) who is a youth, that the individual has English reading, writing, or computing skills at or below the 8th grade level on a generally accepted standardized test; or

(B) who is a youth or adult, that the individual is unable to compute or solve problems, or read, write, or speak English, at a level necessary to function on the job, in the individual’s family, or in society.

Arkansas defines “unable to compute or solve problems, or read, write, or speaking English at a level necessary to function on the job, in the individual’s family, or in society” as meeting one of the following conditions:

o Unable to speak English well enough to conduct a normal conversation with or follow the instructions of an English-speaker

o Unable to read English well enough to follow written instructions, including a manual or a recipe

o Unable to read and write well enough to read and appropriately complete an application for services or an application for employment

o Unable to pass a driver’s license test written in English

o Unable to make change or determine if correct change was given from a clerk

o An adult who lacks the basic academic skills needed to obtain a job at above minimum wage, as evidenced by the adult’s employment history